

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph, beginning on page 1, line 4, as follows:

This application is a U.S. national entry of International Application No. PCT/US2004/038032, filed on November 12, 2004, which claims priority to co-pending benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/519,485, filed November 12, 2003, the contents of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

Please insert the following new paragraphs, on a separate page following the claims:

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to microbial infection, and in particular, the reduction of apoptosis associated with microbial infection, the screening of agents that reduce apoptosis, and the treatment and analysis of microbial infection *in vivo*. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to agents including but not limited to reducing the activity of Protein Kinase R.